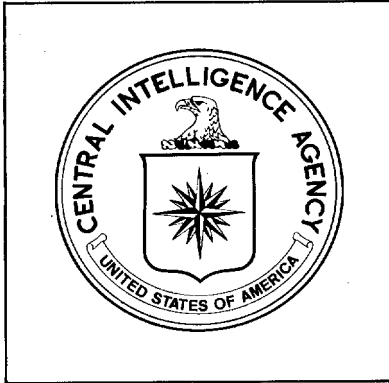


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Continuing Ferment in the Aviation Bureaucracy

Personnel developments at higher levels of the aviation bureaucracy continue to reflect both the premium being placed on the pursuit of Western technology and a greater concern with air safety.

A US government official reported last week that M. S. Mikhaylov has been serving as acting minister of the aviation industry during recent meetings with Americans; Minister P. V. Dementyev was apparently absent because of illness. This suggests that Deputy Minister Mikhaylov, an experienced negotiator with US aviation companies, has succeeded to the post of first deputy, vacated in November 1974 upon the death of S. I. Kadyshev. Another frequent US visitor and contact, Deputy Minister V. A. Kazakov, had earlier been rumored to be Kadyshev's successor.

On the civil aviation front, a US official in Montreal learned in late March that A. F. Borisov has been named deputy in charge of a new "airworthiness" agency in Moscow. This may be the State Committee for Flight Safety, said to have been established last year under the leadership of former first deputy minister of civil aviation A. I. Semenov. If so, Borisov, a former USSR representative to the International Civil Aviation Organization, will serve as Semenov's deputy. Borisov is well liked by American officials and is regarded as level headed.

Another development during March was the report from Moscow that a new deputy minister of civil aviation would soon be appointed and given sole responsibility for the application of computers to aviation. The embassy believes that

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the most likely candidate for the job is Tatyana Anodina, the head of the ministry's new Electronics Administration and a key participant in ongoing negotiations with US firms for the acquisition of American air traffic control technology. Anodina is the wife of Minister of the Radio Industry P. S. Pleshakov. (CONFIDENTIAL)



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